(b if so, what new initiatives have been taken to ensure that there is complete and proper utilisation of funds allotted for the above two projects in future; and

(c) whether Government are aware of diversion of these funds by the State Governments for schemes and projects meant for the development and welfare of Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) No such diversion has come to notice.

Conferring of constitutional powers to the Commission for SC & ST

574. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to confer certain additional constitutional powers to the Commission for *Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe*; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government are examining the whole position with a view to make the National Commission more effective.

Economic assistance to families of Scheduled Tribes

575. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Seventh Five Year Plan 1100589 Scheduled Tribes families which were given economic assistance by November, 1989 under various sub-plan schemes, if so, what was the actual number that arose above the poverty line; and

(b) what was the average assistance given to each of these families in terms of rupees and was it adequate to bring the family above the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) During the Seventh Five Year Plan upto November 1989, 11,00,589 Scheduled Tribe families were economically assisted in Madhya Pradesh. However, the actual number of families emongst them which rose above the poverty line is not available.

(b) It is estimated that the per capita average of the total assistance has been of the order of Rs. 3700. This amount is not adequate, considering that the Working Group on Development of the Scheduled Tribes during the Seventh Five Year Plan had assessed the average requirement per family to be Rs. 10,000.

Under utilisation of funds meant for rehabilitation of bonded labour

576. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, the financial allocation meant for the rehabilitation of 'Bonded Labour' was not fully and properly utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the number of bonded labour is large and the process of their rehabilitation had been slow; and

(d) whether Government are taking any new initiatives to improve the overall position in this context?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As against Plan Allocation of Rs. 15 crores, an amount of about Rs. 18 crores has been disbursed to the various State Governments as Central share under the Cen-